

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
INITIAL POLLUTION REPORT**

DATE: 25APR03

SUBJ: Norfolk Southern Soybean Oil Spill
Highway 133; Rail Mile Post 401A
Muscle Shoals, Colbert County, AL

FROM: Rick Jardine PE, Phone Duty OSC

TO: Shane Hitchcock, Branch Chief
Don Rigger, Section Chief
Region 4, RRC
USCG National Pollution Fund Center
ADEM

I. BACKGROUND

FPN#	None Requested to date.
SITE ID#	None Assigned
PROJECT CEILING:	None
LEAD AGENCY:	EPA Region 4 ERRB 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, Georgia 30303
NPL:	No
FUNDING:	OPA
LEAD OSC	Steve Spurlin

II SITUATION

Date of Notification:	25 April 2003
Date Action Started:	25 April 2003
Date of Completion:	Open
Pollutant:	Soybean Oil
Resource Affected:	Rail ballast, waterway to be determined
Quantity Discharged:	Approximately 10,000 gallons soybean oil
Source Identification:	20,488 gallon tank car

III. ACTIONS TAKEN

At 0450 CDT on 25APR03 rail workers identified a tank car leaking material from bottom cap. Workers replaced the bottom cap and began cleaning the affected ballast. The area experienced heavy rains during the previous night when the leak likely began. Norfolk Southern notified the NRC at 1356 EDT on same day. EPA OSC Spurlin and ADEM SOSC Lucan mobilized to the site to assess impact to waters and to oversight response action. Norfolk Souther contracted HEPACO Inc to conduct clean up including oil recovery.

IV. FUTURE ACTIONS

Continued recovery of oil and decontamination or disposal of affected ballast and subgrade.

V. COSTS TO DATE

EPA \$ 250

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on the figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The financial information is not intended to be used to support any legal action with regard to this removal.

VI. ROSTER OF AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING IN REMOVAL

Organization/Agency	Primary Contact	Phone Number	Role/Activity
US EPA R4	Steve Spurlin	731.422.0101	OSC
ADEM	Jim Lucan	256.353.1713	SOSC
Norfolk Southern	Mike Redrick	256.710.8853	Sr General Foreman
HEPACO	Roger Wood	205.602.3566	Response Contractor

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
FINAL POLLUTION REPORT**

DATE: October 3, 2003

SUBJECT: Norfolk Southern Railroad Soybean Oil Discharge
Sheffield Rail Yard
Wilson Dam Road/Mile Post 401A
Muscle Shoals, Colbert County, Alabama

FROM: Steve Spurlin, OSC
USEPA Region 4

TO: Don Rigger, EPA
Region 4, RRC

I. BACKGROUND

FPN#:	None assigned
SITE ID#:	None assigned
PROJECT CEILING:	\$ 0
LEAD AGENCY:	EPA, Region 4, ERRB 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, Georgia 30303
NPL:	No
FUNDING:	OPA
LEAD OSC:	Steve Spurlin

II SITUATION

Date of Notification:	25 April 03
Date Action Started:	25 April 03
Pollutant:	Soybean Oil
Quantity Discharged:	Approximately 5000 gallons
Source Identification:	Rail tank car release in train yard

III ACTIONS TAKEN

OSC Spurlin responded to the release on April 25, 2003. The release was initially reported by the Norfolk Southern Railroad (Norfolk) via the National Response Center (NRC#643243) as a 10,000 gallon release of soybean oil from a bottom cap of a rail tank car. The soybean oil released to the ballast area along the rail tracks in the Norfolk rail yard were it was discovered by a worker at approximately 0430. Norfolk hired Hepaco Inc. to undertake cleanup of the oil from the spill area. OSC Spurlin arrived on-scene Friday afternoon. A

representative from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) was on-scene. The ADEM representative briefed the OSC, indicating that the oil did not appear to have reached any waterways. The oil had saturated the ballast area along several tracks. Hepaco had excavated recovery pits along the rails to facilitate recovery of the product by vac-truck. The OSC remained on-scene till darkness prevented further work in a safe environment.

On Saturday, April 25th, EPA returned to the scene. Norfolk's contractor continued attempts to flush the product to the open trenches for collection. The collected product was stored temporarily in a frac tank on-site. EPA, ADEM, and Norfolk discussed what continued actions EPA and ADEM would expect to address the spill. Norfolk proposed to continue product recovery by installing a buried collection system along the tracks. This would allow the trapped oil to flush to collection points over time. EPA and ADEM concurred with the proposal. Over the next two days, the trenches were constructed and Norfolk's contractor initiated monitoring and collection of product.

Follow-up conversations with Norfolk in May indicated that product was still being collected. Calculations by Norfolk after the tanker was weighed, indicated approximately 5000 gallons of oil had been released.

IV FUTURE ACTIONS

EPA ERRB does not anticipate any further involvement with the site.

V ESTIMATED COSTS

EPA	\$1000
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